

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # 87B-7

Building Date c. 1820, 1880

Building Name Thomas House

Location 22109 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Md.

Open to Public: Yes ☒ No

Occupied: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Use residence

The Thomas House is located in the Town of Aquasco in the northwest corner of Route 381 and Dr. Bowen Drive. It consists of two frame dwellings set perpendicular to each other. The earlier dwelling, a c.1820, 2 story 3 bay by 1 bay with exterior gable end chimneys, is oriented so that the principal facade, now covered by the second dwelling, faces east toward Route 381. The later, c.1880s, dwelling abuts the east facade of the earlier structure and faces south toward Dr. Bowen Drive. It is a 2 story side hall (or passage) and double parlor house. A two story passage, leading from behind the stairway in the later dwelling to the facade of the earlier dwelling, connects the two structures. A one-story frame kitchen wing, reputedly dating from colonial times, extends from the rear, west elevation, of the earlier dwelling. This wing has been greatly altered, including the removal of a large chimney at the west gable end in c.1948. A 2-story shed addition located in the southwest corner of where the earlier and later dwellings are joined, was made in the 1940s.

The house rests on a brick foundation. The walls are covered with weatherboard siding which were covered with aluminum siding in 1963. Italianate cornice brackets which were on the c.1880 dwelling and added to the c.1820 dwelling were removed at that time, as were the shutters. The gable roofs on all of the sections are covered with standing seam metal. The windows in the c. 1880s dwelling are 1/1 aluminum sash and are 2/2 sash in the c. 1820s dwelling. The c.1880 dwelling has two interior brick chimneys located at the east gable end.

The Thomas House, composed of two dwellings, an earlier c. 1820s house and the later Victorian, c. 1880s house, is significant because it illustrates two different periods of building construction and style. It is also noteworthy for some interior details, particularly the interior of the c. 1880s house and at least one late-Federal mantel located in the c. 1820s house. It is also important because of its association, for 125 years, with the Thomas family, local Aquasco merchants.

Priv/res/occ/good

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J.C. Thomas House

and/or common Thomas House

2. Location

street & number 22109 Aquasco Road (Maryland Route 381) not for publicationcity, town Aquasco, vicinity of congressional district state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> X </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> X </u> not applicable	<u> X </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Preston Ransom

street & number 22109 Aquasco Road telephone no.: 888-1140city, town Aquasco, state and zip code Maryland 20608

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4940street & number folio 233city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

date 1974 federal state X county local pository for survey records Riversdale, 4811 Riverdale Roadcity, town Riverdale, state Maryland 20737

7. Description

Survey No. CG 87B-7

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas House is located in the Town of Aquasco in the northwest corner of Route 381 and Dr. Bowen Drive. It consists of two frame dwellings set perpendicular to each other. The earlier dwelling, a c.1820, 2 story 3 bay by 1 bay with exterior gable end chimneys, is oriented so that the principal facade, now covered by the second dwelling, faces east toward Route 381. The later, c.1880s, dwelling abuts the east facade of the earlier structure and faces south toward Dr. Bowen Drive. It is a 2 story side hall (or passage) and double parlor house. A two story passage, leading from behind the stairway in the later dwelling to the facade of the earlier dwelling, connects the two structures. A one-story frame kitchen wing, reputedly dating from colonial times, extends from the rear, west elevation, of the earlier dwelling. This wing has been greatly altered, including the removal of a large chimney at the west gable end in c.1948. A 2-story shed addition located in the southwest corner of where the earlier and later dwellings are joined, was made in the 1940s.

The house rests on a brick foundation. The walls are covered with weatherboard siding which were covered with aluminum siding in 1963. Italianate cornice brackets which were on the c.1880 dwelling and added to the c.1820 dwelling were removed at that time, as were the shutters. The gable roofs on all of the sections are covered with standing seam metal. The windows in the c. 1880s dwelling are 1/1 aluminum sash and are 2/2 sash in the c. 1820s dwelling. The c.1880 dwelling has two interior brick chimneys located at the east gable end.

The main entrance into the house is located at the west-end of the principal facade (s. elev.) of the c.1880s dwelling. It is composed of an arched paneled door flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a 4-pane transom. It is covered by a flat-roofed, semi-circular canopy and entered by a 3 semi-circular concrete steps.

The interior of this dwelling is intact, displaying c.1880 trim and grand-interior proportions. The entrance leads into a wide stair hall, lit by a window on the west elevation at the base of the stairs. The parlors are entered from this hall and are connected by large double doors. The fireplace in the southeast room is adorned with a simple wooden mantel. Both parlors feature ornamental plaster ceiling medallions. The predominate architrave molding is the Victorian beveled-ogee. The walls of this dwelling are finished with lath and plaster. The second story has three rooms, all of which have separate entrances from the stair landing. The third room is very small and is situated over the entrance stair hall; the other two follow the first floor plan. A door in the central partition wall, connecting this room with the southeast room, was cut in at a later period. The attic story is lit by 2 arched windows at the gable ends and is also finished with lath and plaster. This story and the second have pegged coat/hat hooks on the walls of each stair landing.

The interior of the c.1820s dwelling has been greatly altered, except for one important exception. The wooden mantel in the south room on the second floor is an exquisite example of a late-Federal mantel. The side panels consist of vertical rope moldings surmounted by side blocks ornamented with an oval sunburst pattern. The center horizontal panel connecting the side panels is ornamented with a convex, reeded pattern. This mantel may have been originally located on the first floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. 87B-7

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas House, composed of two dwellings, an earlier c. 1820s house and the later Victorian, c. 1880s house, is significant because it illustrates two different periods of building construction and style. It is also noteworthy for some interior details, particularly the interior of the c. 1880s house and at least one late-Federal mantel located in the c. 1820s house. It is also important because of its association, for 125 years, with the Thomas family, local Aquasco merchants.

In 1820, Stanislaus Hoxton sold to John H. Thomas a 313 acre parcel of land, containing parts of the tracts known as, Joseph and Mary, Brooke Court Manor, Blackwell and Thomas and Anthony's Choice.¹ It is probable that the earlier dwelling was constructed at this point. The tradition that the kitchen wing dates from the colonial period may indicate that it, or more likely, another structure stood on this site.

The property was acquired by the Hoxton's in an interesting manner. Between 1723 and 1726, Walter Hoxton of Great Britian, is listed as the Captain of the ship, "Globe." Hoxton was an agent for "Liberty" (a merchant house?) in London.² In 1728, he acquires the property, consisting of 600 acres, in a lottery, known as "Razor's Two Thousand Pound Lottery."³ In 1788, Hoxton died and the property passed to his wife, Susanna. She died in 1808, upon which the property was conveyed to her son, Stanislaus, who conveyed 313 acres of the property to Thomas in 1820.⁴

The c. 1880s dwelling was probably built during the ownership of Joseph C. Thomas. Five acres of the property on which the house stands remained in the Thomas family until 1946 when it was sold to Alfred and Frances Lapin.⁵ In 1950, it was sold to Kenneth and Regina Wood who in turn sold it in 1952, to Gene and Jeanette Ransom, the parents of the present owner.⁶

Footnotes

1 Liber AB No. 1, Folio 475.

2 Liber M., Folio 148.

3 Liber M, Folio 271.

4 Wills of Walter, Susanna and Stanislaus Hoxton.

5 Liber 895, Folio 145.

6 Liber 1458, Folio 26.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ⁸⁶ 87B-7

See Footnotes.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

C

D 

E

F | | | | | | | |

G

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Ware, Planning Technician

organization	Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
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date October 1983

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, CAB,

telephone 952-3520

city or town Upper Marlboro,

state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

7. Continued

the mantel in the north room on the second floor is similar, except for a cut-out diamond in the side-blocks and a plain, flat center panel. This mantel may be from a later period.

The second floor of the c.1820s dwelling is reached by a stair cut into the connecting passage room between the two structures. This is approximately where the main entrance into the c.1820s dwelling was once located. The ceilings of the first floor have been dropped; they were originally 9 feet in height.

During the ownership of Joseph C. Thomas, there were elaborate gardens with brick walkways located on the grounds. There is still evidence of the brick walks and a brick-lined pit (a fish pond or ice pit?). The present owners also remembers that a chestnut log smokehouse stood on the property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1705175404

P.A. 87B-7

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
James C. Thomas House					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
300 Dr. Bowen Road					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Aguasco					
STATE:			COUNTY:		
Maryland			Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Gene M. Ransom					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
300 Dr. Bowen Road					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Aguasco			Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:					
Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Upper Marlboro			Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
Historic American Buildings Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Library of Congress					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
10 First Street SE					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Washington, DC					

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, frame structure with a three bay, main (south) facade. The doorway, with transom and sidelights, is in the west bay. The windows are 1/1 double hung sash, of small dimension and widely spaced. The double internal end chimneys are at the east end; between them are pairs of windows on the first and second floor and a round headed window at the attic level.

To the west are several additions, one, two stories with two story external brick chimneys on either end.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1835-40

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

lasophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

3 Jun 74

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

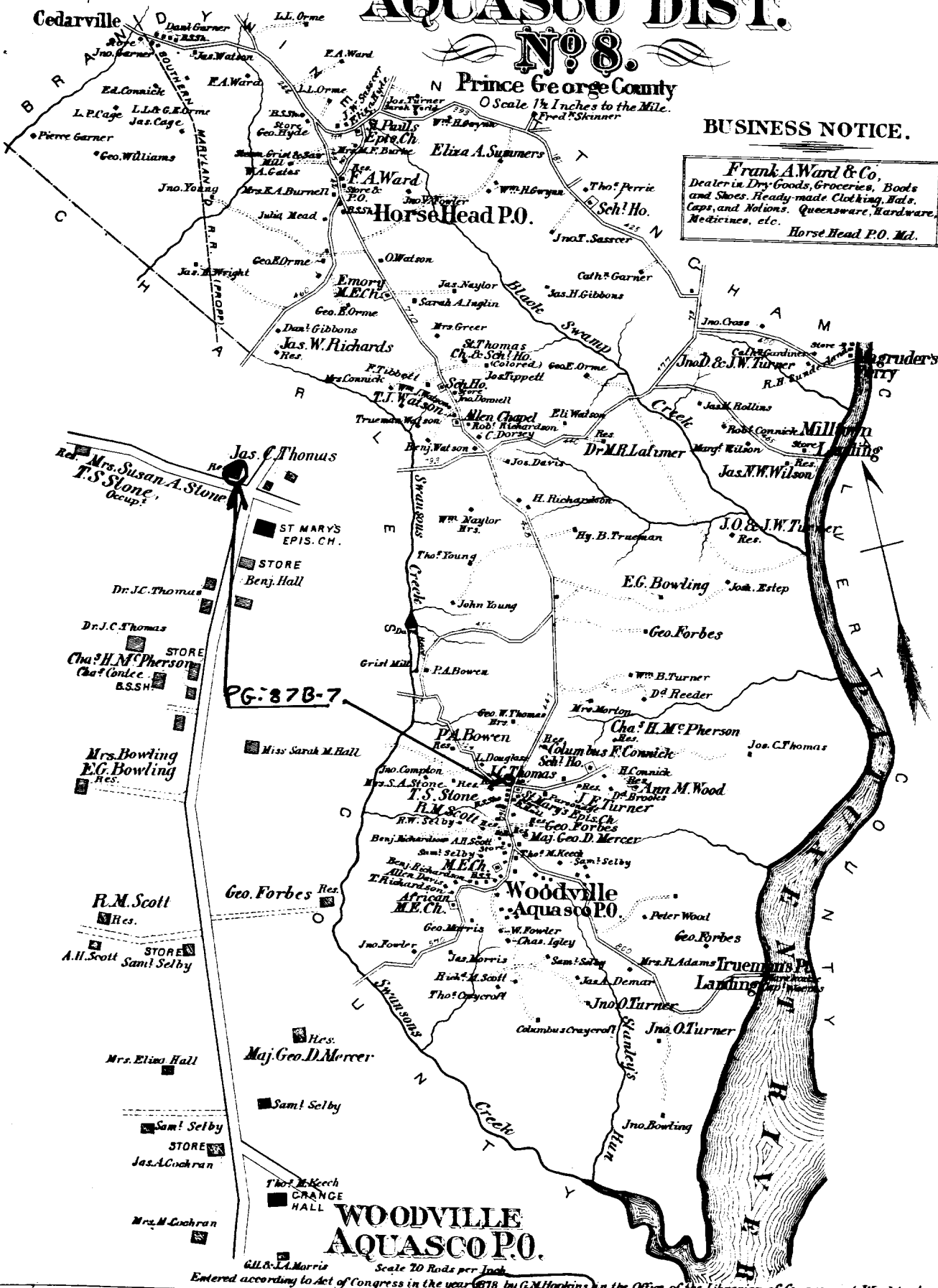
AQUASCO DIST. No 8.

Prince George County

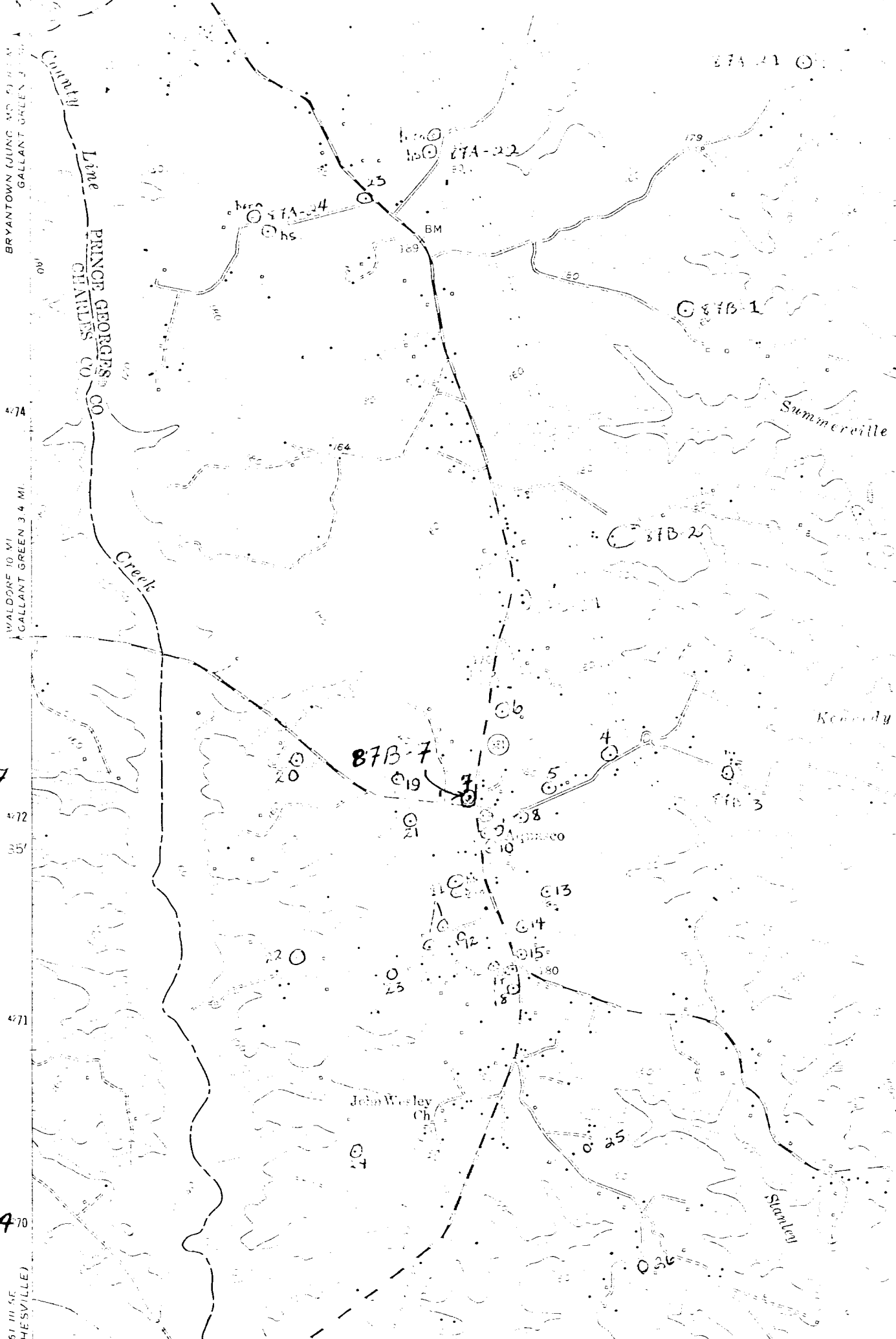
Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile.

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Horse Head P.O. Md.



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THOMAS
HOUSE
PG. #87B-7

BENEDICT A 70



P.G. #87B-7

Thomas house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #87B-7

Thomas house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

May 1984

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME THOMAS HOUSE # 87B-7

LOCATION DR BOWEN Rd + Rt 381 AQUASCO, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 6/3/74 MOWYER